

International Intelligence

Cousteau to stage 'trial' of Columbus

Jacques Cousteau, the French naturalist and seafarer, arrived in Mexico City on April 22, announcing his intention to put Christopher Columbus on trial for genocide, and to head up the Ibero-American campaign against the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America.

"Columbus will be tried before a war tribunal for his crimes in the Caribbean; his adventure, once called 'marvelous,' went from the concept of the good to the bad, in today's generation, which is headed toward a new world of universal disarmament and peace," Cousteau declared. He said that Columbus's landing in the Caribbean had been "a bloodbath," and that Columbus's crimes were so great that a Nuremberg-style trial would be required.

Coming from Cousteau, the accusation of genocide against Columbus is particularly ironic, since in an interview with the *Unesco Courier* in November 1991, Cousteau called for eliminating 350,000 people a day in order to "save" the environment. "Getting rid of viruses is an admirable idea, but it raises enormous problems," said Cousteau. ". . . It's terrible to have to say this. World population must be stabilized and to do that we must eliminate 350,000 people per day. This is so horrible to contemplate that we shouldn't even say it. But the general situation in which we are involved is lamentable."

Tunisian analyst blasts the 'new world order'

As seen by the Arab world, the "new world order" is a dangerous repetition of the Franco-British colonial strategies of the 1750-1830 period and of the Anglo-French Sykes-Picot scheme for the Middle East, wrote Hamadi El-Aouni, a Tunisian-origin professor now teaching in Berlin. El-Aouni made his remarks in a paper submitted to the German Evangelical Church Academy conference in Loccum, Germany at the end of April. The theme of the conference was

"Beyond Bipolarity: Marching into the New World Order."

El-Aouni charges that the Euro-American architects of the "new world order" are totally hypocritical when they use "human rights" as a battering ram against the South, but ignore such facts as the "concentration camp situation" in which more than 3 million Palestinians are living and completely deny that Iraqis and Libyans have any human rights. "There is scarcely a voice heard in these same Euro-American circles about the right to life in Iraq since its destruction by the American military superpower at the head of an alliance of not less than 30 nations," he writes. "Iraq is a nation whose children have been threatened with death for two years now, because they have neither the right to food, nor the right to medicine, as a consequence of the total embargo imposed by the Euro-American alliance on pseudo-human-rights grounds."

What was done against Iraq serves a "test" for how far, and how intensively, attacks can be carried out against countries in the South in the future, El-Aouni warns. He points to the "essential role" played by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in implementing this neocolonial strategy.

Syria's Assad rallies Arabs against U.S. policy

Syrian President Hafez al-Assad, a former U.S. ally in the Gulf war against Iraq, toured the Arab Gulf states in April to express his "disillusionment with the new world order," France's *Le Monde* reported on April 21.

Beginning April 19, Assad visited Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates, carrying the message that the new world order is "arbitrary and unjust." Not only is he indicating support for Libya's Colonel Qaddafi, but is also expressing "total opposition to any military action against Saddam Hussein," *Le Monde* notes. Assad is angered at the Gulf states' cutback of promised financial support to Syria, and also by the fact that the Gulf states now seem uninterested in an earlier idea for Syria and Egypt to militarily defend the Gulf

states, but have turned to the United States instead for defense.

Al Baath, the daily of the ruling Syrian Baath Party, called on April 21 for a united Arab front against George Bush's Mideast policy, which it called the greatest threat now facing the Arab world. The daily reported that the Syrian airline would not observe the U.N. air traffic embargo against Libya, as an expression of opposition to the U.S. policy.

Algerian fundamentalists issue call to arms

The underground publication of the banned Algerian Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) issued a declaration at the end of April calling for its supporters to take up arms. "After vain calls for dialogue, the people should move from words to rifles," said the declaration, which compared the military-backed government of Mohamed Boudiaf to Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy, and attacked the ban on and repression of the FIS. "To oppression, there is resistance, and we are prepared to sacrifice millions to save Algeria," it said.

In the meantime, the government of Mohamed Boudiaf convened the first session of the unelected 60-member consultative council which is to advise the military government.

Edgar Bronfman does not speak for the Jews

World Jewish Congress President Edgar Bronfman was denounced by three influential Jews—Germany's Michael Wolffsohn, Austria's Simon Wiesenthal, and Britain's Lord Weidenfeld—in a commentary in the April 16 *Jerusalem Post*, entitled, "Just Who Are Our Jewish Leaders?"

The three attack Bronfman's recent polemics against German Chancellor Helmut Kohl for meeting with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim—the target of an unsubstantiated campaign accusing him of Nazi war crimes.

The authors draw attention to the cozy relationship between Bronfman's WJC and the former East German communist regime. They cite internal documents of the former Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the German Democratic Republic, describing a meeting of WJC representative Maram Stern on Nov. 30, 1989 with "an unusual pair": Oskar Fischer, "the new-old foreign minister of the G.D.R.," and Dr. Herbert Barth, director of the G.D.R. Foreign Ministry's U.S. department.

"The G.D.R. was seeking dialogue with American Jews, and through them, hoped to establish contact with the U.S. administration," the authors write. "Although they had been pursuing this tactic since 1985, their efforts had been rejected by the major American Jewish organizations. Only the WJC, under the leadership of Edgar Bronfman, was prepared to help establish contacts with the Jewish and general communities in the U.S. Bronfman's efforts were rewarded with a coveted prize: In the fall of 1988, Erich Honecker awarded him the highest decoration of the G.D.R., the 'Stern der Völkerfreundschaft in Gold' (Gold Star of the Friendship of Peoples)."

"We feel that it is time," the three conclude, "and in the interest especially of Jews, to inform the public about the activities of people who claim to be speaking in the name of all Jews."

Britain's MI-5 demands 'unprecedented powers'

The security service chiefs of Britain's MI-5 domestic intelligence are poised to win "unprecedented powers" in the fight against the Irish Republican Army (IRA) within Britain, the London *Observer* reported on April 26.

These extraordinary powers were outlined in a secret report by Home Deputy Secretary Ian Burns, and will give a new MI-5 "standing committee" control of all intelligence leads gathered by police, customs, and other agencies. All agencies would be required to refer their findings to the "standing committee." MI-5 would then

decide who should act on the intelligence: itself, the police Special Branch, or the Anti-Terror squad. MI-5 would have power to run anti-terror operations on its own, including running double agents in the IRA, even if that means allowing terror operations to go forward in order to protect the informers. MI-5 would also get *carte blanche* to mount surveillance operations.

The Burns report, which would give MI-5 a far greater scope of activity than it now commands, even in Northern Ireland, is, according to the *Observer*, the result of lobbying commissioned by MI-5's new director general, Stella Rimington, and her deputy, Chris Davey.

Anti-government demos rock Taiwan

About 10,000 people marched in heavy rain through cities across Taiwan on April 19, to demand direct presidential elections, the release of jailed dissidents, and other democratic reforms. According to Reuters, in Taipei, nearly 10,000 dissidents, students, monks, and other members of the opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) screamed for the resignation of Premier Hau Pei-tsun as they paraded through the capital's city center.

The demonstrations marked the start of a three-day program of street protests called by the DPP. They have caused near-riots every day in the current 70-day special meeting of the National Assembly to revise the Constitution.

The DPP is a product of the international "Green" parties and the U.S. intelligence networks known as Project Democracy. Its demand for direct presidential elections has become the focus of the DPP since it was trounced by the ruling Kuomintang (KMT) in the general elections last year. "Direct presidential elections are the only hope for this country to become a democracy," said DPP Deputy Chang Chun-hong, leading the procession of banner-waving, gong-beating protesters in Taipei.

The KMT shelved the motion to introduce direct presidential elections.

● **YASSER ARAFAT**, the PLO chairman, charged on April 19 that Israel is using chemical weapons against the Palestinians. Speaking at a press conference in Algiers, he said that while the Israelis claim they are throwing "teargas grenades" at protesters, "Belgian and American medical teams have proved, after analyzing samples in laboratories, that they are chemical bombs, banned internationally."

● **CHINESE DISSIDENT** Ni Yuxian attempted to return to China in mid-April, testing Deng Xiaoping's call to the overseas Chinese to return home without fear. Ni flew into Hong Kong, where he was immediately arrested, held for a day, then deported to the U.S. (See *EIR*, Dec. 20, 1991, for his speech to a conference of the Schiller Institute.)

● **INDIAN CONGRESS** party leader Sadiq Ali has signed a resolution demanding freedom for U.S. political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche. Sadiq Ali, who was jailed several times during the Indian freedom struggle, has served in many government and Congress Party posts, including that of governor of the state of Maharashtra (1977-80) and governor of the state of Tamil Nadu (1980-82).

● **THE TURKISH** Red Cross sent Iraqi children 45 tons of food and medical aid on April 19, the semi-official Anatolian News Agency reported. A spokesman said there would be further shipments of milk powder, baby food, medicine and, medical equipment, as needed.

● **AFGHANISTAN'S** power struggle involves control over the opium trade, according to Indian-based intelligence sources cited by the London *Times* on April 28. The major opium-growing regions of Afghanistan are apparently under the control of CIA-armed Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the sources said. "Even if Hekmatyar is not directly involved in the drug trade, he is bound to protect the interests of his tribesmen who are," said one.